

HISTORY OF USS REPOSE (AH-16)

A more modern floating hospital than USS REPOSE (AH-16) could not be found, since all the latest features in Hospital Ship design have been incorporated in her. With her crew of 54 officers, 29 nurses, 32 chief petty officers and 511 bluejackets, she can handle 922 patients with the efficiency of any metropolitan hospital.

USS REPOSE (AH-16) was built by the Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company at Chester, Pennsylvania, under contract with the United States Maritime Commission. Her keel was laid on 22 October 1943, and she was launched on 8 August 1944 as the SS MARINE BEAVER. The ship's sponsor was Mrs. Pauline P. McIntire, wife of Vice Admiral Poss T. McIntire, Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

On 14 September 1944, the ship was delivered to the Navy before completion through the U.S. Maritime Commission. She was then towed to the Brooklyn Navy Yard of the Bethlehem Steel Shipbuilding Company for conversion and completion as a hospital ship. USS REPOSE (AH-16) was completed and commissioned on 26 May 1945.

On the same day she shifted berths to load stores and on 31 May got underway for Bayone, New Jersey to complete fitting out. On 1 June she sailed for Long Island Sound for tests and drills. On 3 June with machinery tests completed, USS REPOSE (AH-16) put into the Brooklyn Navy Yard again to take on stores. She sailed for Norfolk, Virginia on the 6th, arriving on the following day. After various training exercises along the east coast USS REPOSE (AH-16) sailed for Cristobal, Canal Zone on 8 July 1945. She arrived on 14 July, transited the Canal and moored at Balboa, Canal Zone.

On 15 July, USS REPOSE (AH-16) got underway for Pearl Harbor where she arrived on the 29th. On 5 August she steamed out of the Hawaiian port bound for San Francisco and arrived there on 13 August. She remained at San Francisco until 24 August when she stood out for Pearl Harbor again. She arrived there on the last day of August and on the following day, sailed on for Okinawa.

USS REPOSE (AH-16) anchored in Buckner Bay, Okinawa on 15 September, but stood out again the following day to ride out a typhoon. During the typhoon, the winds were so intense that fire plumes on the main deck were sheared off at deck level and paint was removed to the bare metal. However, only minor damage was done and she returned to her anchorage at Okinawa on 18 September.

On 25 September USS REPOSE (AH-16) departed Okinawa enroute to Leyte, Philippine Islands. When only two days at sea she received orders to proceed to Shanghai, China. She arrived on 30 September 1945. She remained there, attached to Service Squadron 10 of the SEVENTH Fleet until 10 March 1946. On 10 March she was ordered to Tsingtao, China and arrived there the following day. On 16 March she returned to Shanghai, arriving on 18 March and remained there until 15 October 1946.

On 15 October 1946 USS REPOSE (AH-16) sailed for the U.S.A., arriving at San Francisco on 1 November. Voyage repairs were effected upon arrival. She remained there until 5 February 1947 at which time she sailed for Pearl Harbor. She arrived on the 12th, and sailed for Yokosuka, Japan on the 14th. On 25 February USS REPOSE (AH-16) moored to Piedmont Pier, at the Yokosuka Naval Base. On the following day she sailed for Tsingtao, China, arriving on 1 March. There she moored alongside her sistership, USS BENEVOLENCE (AH-15). USS REPOSE (AH-16) remained at Tsingtao until 9 September 1948 at which time she sailed for Yokosuka, Japan. She arrived there on 12 September for repairs and on 25 September, returned to Tsingtao. She remained there until 16 March 1949 when she sailed for Shanghai again mooring there the following day.

On 25 March 1949 USS REPOSE (AH-16) returned to Tsingtao and, on 22 April, began receiving British casualties from Communist Chinese attacks from HMS LONDON, BLACK, SWAIN and AMETHYST. A plaque for REPOSE's wardroom was donated from HMS LONDON.

The following day, American evacuees from Shanghai were embarked and on 29 April, with 77 British casualties and 118 American Evacuees aboard, USS REPOSE (AH-16) sailed for Hong Kong where she arrived on 1 May.

On 5 May USS REPOSE (AH-16) sailed for Luzon, Philippine Islands and arrived on 7 May. She disembarked 1 American evacuee and sailed for Yokosuka, Japan. She arrived on 12 May and on the following day sailed for Woosung, China. Her orders were changed enroute and on 17 May USS REPOSE (AH-16) put into Sadile Islands, China. On 19 May she sailed on for Tsingtao, China, arriving on 20 May. On 22 May she began her return voyage to Yokosuka, Japan arriving on 25 May. Three days later she stood out for Okinawa and arrived there on 30 May 1949.

On 31 May USS REPOSE (AH-16) again stood out enroute for Hong Kong, China, arriving on 2 June. She remained there until 25 June when she steamed for Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. She arrived on 28 June and on 5 July stood out for Pearl Harbor, arriving on 18 July 1949. On 21 July she sailed on for Long Beach, California and arrived on 27 July. She remained there until 2 September when she sailed for San Francisco.

From 3 September 1949 until 26 August 1950 USS REPOSE (AH-16) was operated by the Military Sea Transportation Service by a civilian crew. With her civilian crew still on board she sailed for Yokohama, Japan on 2 September 1950 and arrived on 16 September 1950, with her Navy crew again embarked at Yokosuka, she sailed for Pusan, Korea on 17 September 1950 and arrived on the 20th. There she served as a station general hospital until departing on 27 October with 189 United Nations casualties. She arrived at Yokohama again on 27 October and discharged all her casualties except naval and Marine

corps personnel and sailed for Yokosuka, Japan. She arrived on the same day and on 28 October at 1030 the officers and crew assembled on the bridge deck for recommissioning ceremonies. At 1112 on that date the commission pennant was broke and REPOSE again became USS REPOSE (AH-16). Captain F. B. COYL, MC, USN at this time was officer in Command of the hospital with Captain C. H. P. DUE, USN, as Commanding Officer of the ship.

On 13 November USS REPOSE (AH-16) returned to Korea putting in at Inchon. She steamed on to Chinnamp'o on 19 November where she remained until 1 December 1950. On that date she sailed for Inchon with 752 Casualties from Pyongyang Hospital.

The second and third of January found USS REPOSE (AH-16) being shaken by concussion from the heavy fire of U.S. and other U.N. fleet units during the support of U. S. troops and the destruction of the Inchon Port facilities and burning of the city of Inchon.

On 7 January 1951, USS REPOSE (AH-16) sailed for Pusan arriving on the 9th. On 21 January she sailed on for Yokosuka, with 301 casualties, mooring there on the 24th.

On 24 January 1951 she moved on to Yokohama, Japan where she disembarked her casualties prior to an availability that lasted until 5 February 1951. On that date she sailed for Pohang Dong, Korea and anchored there on 8 February. While there she operated with the First Division U. S. Marine Corps, providing hospital facilities for their casualties. On 18 February she was ordered on to Pusan again where she received Army casualties. On 27 April USS REPOSE (AH-16) sailed for Kobe, Japan with 741 casualties. She arrived on 8 May but returned to Sasebo, Japan on 14 May for an administrative inspection on 25 May. On 7 June she again sailed for Pusan, where she resumed her duties as hospital ship for U. S. and U. N. forces.

On 4 August 1951, USS REPOSE (AH-16) sailed for Yokosuka with 124 casualties and arrived on 6 August. She returned to Pusan on 22 August and took patients from the hospital ship USS HAVE. USS REPOSE (AH-16) remained in that area until 20 September 1951. On that date she celebrated her first year's service in the Korean Theater of Operations at Pusan by giving a ship's party. Another party was given to some 500 orphans at the "Happy Mountain Orphanage" in Pusan.

It was not until 22 January 1952 that the USS REPOSE (AH-16) headed for home, having assisted in evacuation from such ports as Inchon, Pohang Dong and Chinnampo. During her yard availability in February 1952, a helicopter platform was constructed on the stern on the USS REPOSE (AH-16), thus accommodating the evacuation of casualties directly from the front lines to the ship.

Sea trials were completed on 23 April 1952. On 23 May 1952 the USS REPOSE (AH-16) got underway from San Diego, California for Pearl Harbor and arrived 6 June 1952. She sailed for WestPac on 9 June 1952 enroute to Sasebo, Japan. The USS REPOSE (AH-16) arrived in Sasebo on 20 June and got underway for Inchon Harbor, Korea on 23 June arriving on 24 June. The first patients were received onboard from the Inchon area the same day. The USS HAVEN joined the USS REPOSE (AH-16) on 22 July 1952 in Inchon.

On 2 August 1952 the USS REPOSE (AH-16) was underway for Yokosuka, Japan and arrived on 4 August 1952. She returned on station in Inchon, Korea on 20 August 1952. On 10 October 1952 she returned to Yokosuka, Japan discharging and transferring 650 patients to U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka. She returned to Inchon 25 October 1952.

At this time she was operating with the Danish Hospital Ship JUTLANDIA and the USS CONSOLATION, Hospital ship. On 11 December 1952 she got underway for Pusan, Korea enroute to Yokosuka, Japan arriving in Yokosuka 15 December 1952. While in port in Yokosuka, on 25 December 1952, the USS REPOSE (AH-16) sponsored a Christmas party for 143 orphans. She returned on station in Inchon on 30 December 1952. Another run was made to Yokosuka on 9 February 1953. About 160 patients were transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka.

On 14 February 1953, the Legion of Merit was awarded to CAPT A. M. ECKLUND, MC, USN, Commanding Officer of the Hospital by Commander Service Squadron Three.

On 14 February 1953, the USS REPOSE (AH-16) got underway for Pearl Harbor and arrived 24 February 1953. On 28 February 1953 she got underway for San Francisco arriving there 6 March 1953. 140 patients were transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, California. She got underway on 6 March 1953 for Long Beach, California arriving 7 March 1953. The USS REPOSE (AH-16) then moved to the Craig Shipbuilding Company, Long Beach on 2 April 1953, returning to Long Beach on 12 May 1953. She sailed for Pearl Harbor on 17 May 1953, upon arrival Pearl Harbor she then got underway for Yokosuka, Japan, arriving in Yokosuka on 5 June 1953.

The Presidential Unit Citation was awarded the USS REPOSE (AH-16) on 10 June 1953 by ADM H. F. MULPHY, Commander Service Squadron Three.

The USS REPOSE (AH-16) returned to station in Inchon Harbor, Korea on 14 June 1953. She got underway for Chinhoe, Korea on 30 July 1953 arriving on 31 July 1953. She then sailed for Yokosuka, Japan on 1 August 1953, arriving on 2 August 1953. She transferred about 350 patients to the U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, getting underway for Inchon Harbor on 7 August 1953 and arriving 10 August 1953. Underway for Yokosuka on 3 November 1953 and arriving on 5 November 1953. On arrival the USS REPOSE (AH-16) transferred 150 patients to the Naval Hospital.

On 23 January 1954 the USS "POSE" (AH-16) received about 250 patients for transfer to COMUS and got underway for Pearl Harbor arriving 2 February 1954. On 4 February she got underway for San Diego, arriving on the eleventh and sailed for Long Beach the same day. On 13 March 1954 she returned to San Diego. Sailing to Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 28 April 1954, she remained there until 1 September 1954, at which time she sailed for San Francisco arriving on 2 September 1954.

The USS "POSE" (AH-16) was then transferred to the U.S. Naval Reserve Fleet, San Francisco Group, on 27 September 1954. She got underway with tugs for Hunters Point Naval Shipyard on 10 November 1954 and was decommissioned there on 21 December 1954.

After 10½ years with the Reserve Fleet at Suisun Bay, California the USS "POSE" (AH-16) was activated and towed to Bethlehem Steel Shipyard and then to Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in June 1965.

On 15 June 1965, she commenced a one-hundred and fifty day activation period. On 16 October 1965 at 1400, the USS "POSE" (AH-16) was recommissioned at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard; ready to serve her country wherever needed.